

C. Remarks

The claims are 1, 3, and 11 with claim 1 being independent. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the substitute specification at page 18, lines 12-15. New claim 11 has been added. Support for this claim may be found, for example, in the substitute specification at pages 8 and 9, as well as in the drawings. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of these claims is expressly requested.

Claims 1 and 3 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner continues to allege that the temperature range of 80°C to 100°C that was recited in claim 1 is not supported by the application as filed.

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner, claim 1 now has been amended to recite that the isocyanate compound is at a temperature at which it is in a liquid state, which is mentioned in the substitute specification, at page 18, lines 12-15. Accordingly, withdrawal of the written description rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from U.S. Patent No. 4,825,249 (Oki) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 3,024,209 (Ferrigno); and 3,387,071 (Cahill); and JP 2001-343874 (Miura). The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Initially, Applicants would like to reiterate the remarks presented in the March 7, 2011 Response. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider them in view of the comments presented below.

The March 23, 2011 Advisory Action alleges that Oki still reads on the claimed impregnation process, because the “surface” of the unreacted urethane blade in both the claimed invention and in Oki is below the cured layer that is formed. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As is shown in the drawings and discussed in the specification, the cured layer in accordance with the present invention is formed in a direction below the surface of the urethane blade that comes into contact with the isocyanate compound. The isocyanate compound penetrates below the surface of the urethane resin and the cured layer is formed in the depth direction. In Oki, the coating layer is formed on top of the surface that is contacted with a coating solution in which hydroxyl or isocyanate compounds are dissolved or dispersed.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that whether considered separately or in any combination, the documents of record fail to disclose or suggest the presently claimed elements.

Wherefore, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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